

County Snapshot

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Kings County, located in California's San Joaquin Valley, is bordered by Fresno County to the north, Kern County to the south, Monterey County to the west, and Tulare County to the east.

The county's population is projected to reach 186,600 by the year 2020, an increase of more than 47 percent over the population.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the county's civilian labor force to be 43,500 with an unemployment rate of 13 percent. Historically, agriculture and related industries have dominated Kings County's economy and agriculturally oriented counties tend to have higher unemployment rates and greater seasonal variations in employment. The state's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent for the same year

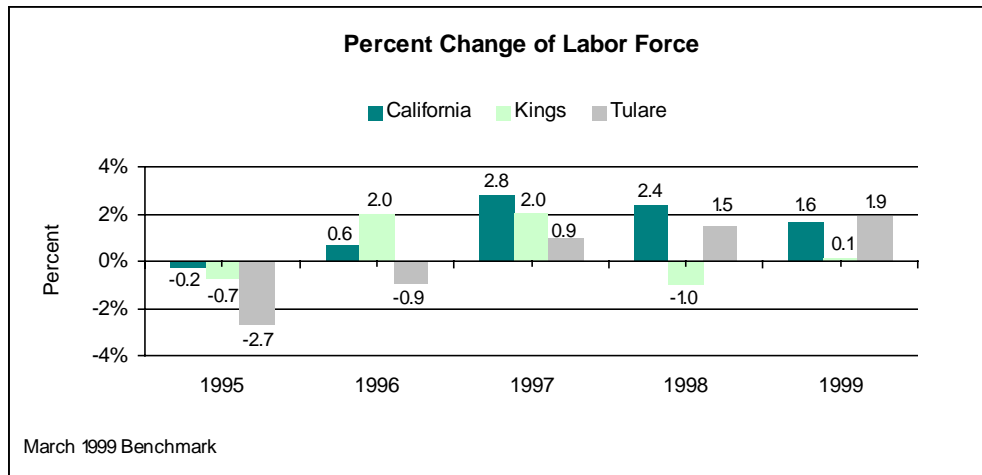
Government, the dominant industry division in 1999, provided over 30 percent of total employment with most of the jobs available in local government. Agriculture accounted for 20 percent of the total and retail trade accounted for 15 percent.

Most of the jobs in Kings County's future nonfarm wage and salary employment will be in services, manufacturing and government. Services, the fastest growing industry, has a projected growth rate of 16 percent. Manufacturing will grow by almost 16 percent, with a majority of the growth in the food and kindred products sector, and government is expected to grow by a little over 9 percent.

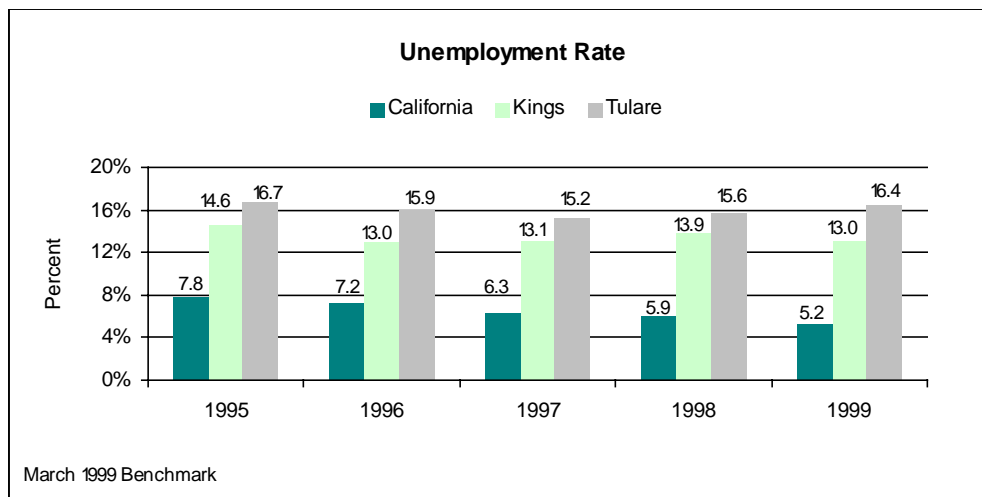
Despite fluctuations in labor force, there has been growth in industry employment in Kings County. The county is projected to experience growth over the next several years.

LABOR FORCE

From 1995 to 1999, cumulative growth in the civilian labor force in Kings County was a little over 3 percent with the greatest growth, 2 percent, recorded in 1996 and then again 1997. Neighboring Tulare County began a growth trend in 1997 and recorded 1.9 percent growth in 1999.

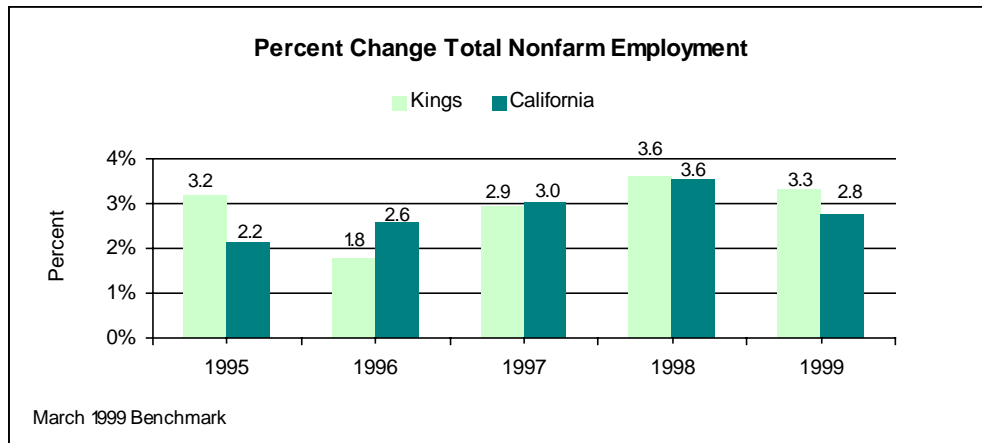


Over the years 1995 to 1999, the annual average unemployment rate in Kings County exceeded the rate for the state, however, agriculturally oriented counties tend to have higher unemployment rates and greater seasonal variations in employment. The county's recorded unemployment rate in 1999 was 13 percent. Neighboring Tulare County posted a rate of 16.4 percent for the same year.

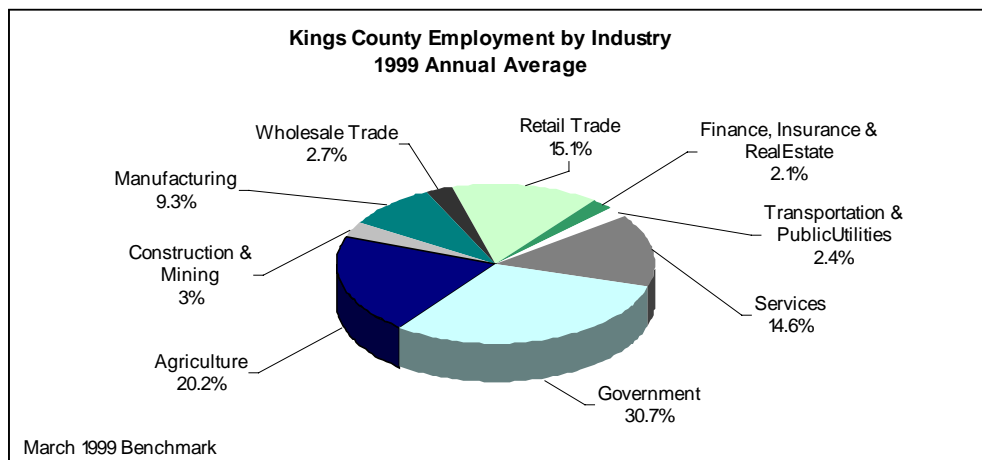


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Job growth creates opportunity and is considered to be one measure of economic health. From 1995 to 1999, Kings County has shown strong growth, outpacing the state in two out of five years. In 1999, the growth in the county was 3.3 percent compared to 2.8 percent for the state.



In 1999, government, agriculture and retail trade dominated Kings County employment. Projections in nonfarm employment for the area indicate that services, manufacturing and government will account for over 80 percent of the projected job growth.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Kings County is projected to have employment opportunities not only in the high turnover occupations but also in the more technologically advanced categories.

Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 16.4%
	Home Health Care Workers – 80 job openings. Care for elderly, convalescent, or handicapped persons in the homes of their patients. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.74
	Registered Nurses – 60 job openings. Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the conditions of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$22.85
	Nurse Aides, Orderlies, Attendants – 40 job openings. Help care for physically or mentally ill, injured, disabled, or infirm individuals confined to hospitals and residential care facilities. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.82
	Medical Assistants – 30 job openings. Perform various duties under the direction of physician in examination and treatment of patients. Prepare treatment room, inventory supplies and instruments, and set up patient for attention of physician. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$10.81
	General Managers, Top Executives – 20 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$28.08
Associated Occupations	MANUFACTURING 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 15.9%
	Misc. Helpers, Laborers – Hand, NEC – 110 job openings. Perform a broad array of helper and laborer jobs that require little training; assist more skilled production, construction, operating and maintenance workers with routine, physical work under close supervision. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$15.57
	Industrial Truck, Tractor Operators – 40 job openings. Operate gasoline or electric-powered industrial trucks or tractors equipped with fork lift, elevated platform, or trailer hitch to move materials around a warehouse, storage yard, factory, construction site, or similar location. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$11.91
	General Office Clerks – 30 job openings. Performs a wide variety of tasks. Clerical duties may be assigned in accordance with the office procedures of the individual establishments and may include a combination of bookkeeping, typing, stenography, office machine operation, and filing. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.04
	Machinery Maintenance Mechanics, NEC – 30 job openings. Repair and maintain the operating condition of production and processing machinery. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$16.03
	Food Batchmakers – 20 job openings. Set up and operate equipment that mixes, blends, or cooks ingredients used in the manufacturing of food products, according to formulas or recipes. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$11.49
Associated Occupations	GOVERNMENT 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 9.1%
	Corrections Officers and Jailers – 370 job openings. Guard inmates in penal or rehabilitative institutions in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.01
	Systems Analysts, Electronic Data Processor – 10 job openings. Analyze business, scientific, and technical problems for application to electronic data processing systems. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.50
	Social Workers, Medical And Psychiatric – 10 job openings. Counsel and aid individuals and families with problems that may arise during or following the recovery from physical or mental illness by providing supportive services designed to help the persons understand, accept, and follow medical recommendations. Master's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.72
	Social Workers, Except Medical And Psychiatric – 10 job openings. Counsel and aid individuals and families requiring social service assistance. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$16.75
	Human Services Workers – 10 job openings. Assist Social Group Workers and Caseworkers with developing, organizing and conducting programs to prevent and resolve problems relevant to substance abuse and human relationships. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$11.05

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
State of California
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